



# Afghanistan Casualties: Military Forces and Civilians

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April 12, 2010

**Congressional Research Service**

7-5700

[www.crs.gov](http://www.crs.gov)

R41084

Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE <b>12 APR 2010</b>		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED <b>00-00-2010 to 00-00-2010</b>	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE <b>Afghanistan Casualties: Military Forces and Civilians</b>				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) <b>Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave, SE, Washington, DC, 20540-7500</b>				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT <b>Approved for public release; distribution unlimited</b>					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT <b>Same as Report (SAR)</b>	18. NUMBER OF PAGES <b>5</b>	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT <b>unclassified</b>	b. ABSTRACT <b>unclassified</b>	c. THIS PAGE <b>unclassified</b>			

## Summary

This report collects statistics from a variety of sources on casualties sustained during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), which began on October 7, 2001, and is ongoing. OEF actions take place primarily in Afghanistan; however, OEF casualties also includes American casualties in Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Yemen.

Casualty data of U.S. military forces are compiled by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), as tallied from the agency's press releases. Also included are statistics on those wounded but not killed. Statistics may be revised as circumstances are investigated and as records are processed through the U.S. military's casualty system. More frequent updates are available at DOD's website at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/> under "Casualty Update."

A detailed casualty summary of U.S. military forces that includes data on deaths by cause, as well as statistics on soldiers wounded in action, is available at the following DOD website: <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm>.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) does not post casualty statistics of the military forces of partner countries on the ISAF website at <http://www.isaf.nato.int/>. ISAF press releases state that it is ISAF policy to defer to the relevant national authorities to provide notice of any fatality. For this reason, this report uses fatality data of coalition forces as compiled by CNN.com and posted online at <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2004/oef.casualties/index.html>.

Casualty data of Afghan civilians are reported quarterly by the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA). Deaths of Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army personnel are reported by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction in the quarterly reports to Congress that are required as part of P.L. 110-181.

Because the estimates of Afghan casualties contained in this report are based on varying time periods and have been created using different methodologies, readers should exercise caution when using them and should look to them as guideposts rather than as statements of fact.

This report will be updated as needed.

The following tables present data on U.S. military casualties in Operation Enduring Freedom, deaths of coalition partners in Afghanistan, and Afghan civilian casualties, respectively.

**Table 1. Operation Enduring Freedom, U.S. Fatalities and Wounded**

as of April 9, 2010, 10 a.m. EDT from October 7, 2001

	Fatalities In and Around Afghanistan <sup>a</sup>	Fatalities in Other Locations <sup>b</sup>	Total Fatalities	Wounded in Action	
Hostile <sup>c</sup>	744	8	752	Returned to Duty within 72 Hours	2,386
Non-Hostile <sup>d</sup>	207	69	276	Not Returned to Duty within 72 Hours	3,124
Total	951	77	1,028	Total	5,510

**Source:** <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>

- "Fatalities in and around Afghanistan" include casualties that occurred in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan.
- "Other locations" includes casualties that occurred in Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Yemen.
- According to the Department of Defense *Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms*, as amended through 31 August 2005, a "hostile casualty" is a victim of a terrorist activity or a casualty as the result of combat or attack by any force against U.S. forces, available at <http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA43918>.
- The above-named reference defines a "nonhostile casualty" as a casualty that is not directly attributable to hostile action or terrorist activity, such as casualties due to the elements, self-inflicted wounds, or combat fatigue.

**Table 2. Deaths of Coalition Partners in Afghanistan**

Country	# of Deaths	Country	# of Deaths
Australia	11	Lithuania	1
Belgium	1	Netherlands	21
Canada	141	Norway	5
Czech Republic	3	Poland	16
Denmark	29	Portugal	2
Estonia	7	Romania	12
Finland	1	South Korea	1
France	40	Spain	28
Germany	39	Sweden	4
Hungary	2	Turkey	2
Italy	22	United Kingdom	281
Latvia	3	—	—
Total Non-U.S. Coalition Fatalities		672	

**Source:** CNN U.S. and Coalition Casualties, <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2004/oef.casualties/2010.02.html> as viewed on April 12, 2010, 9:30 a.m., EDT.

Table 3. Afghan Casualties

Group	Period	# of Deaths	Note
Afghan Civilians	2009	2,412 killed	67% of civilian deaths were attributed to actions of anti-Government elements (78% of these deaths were caused by improvised explosive devices and suicide attacks).  25% of civilian deaths were attributed to pro-Government forces.  8% of civilian deaths were the result of cross-fire or improperly detonated ordnance.
		3,566 injured <sup>a</sup>	
	2008	2,118 <sup>b</sup>	
	2007	1,523 <sup>c</sup>	
Afghan National Army	January-December 27, 2009	465 <sup>d</sup>	
	2007-2008	537 <sup>e</sup>	
Afghan National Police	January-December 27, 2009	794 <sup>f</sup>	
	2007-2008	1,412 <sup>g</sup>	

**Sources:** Compiled by the Congressional Research Service from noted sources.

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